



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q63109

Hiroaki NASU, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/916,532

Group Art Unit: 1724

Confirmation No.: 9048

Examiner: Peter A. Hruskoci

Filed: July 30, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR TREATING CHROMATE WASTE LIQUID

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communication from a Foreign Patent Office (Korean Office Action for Korean Patent Application No. 10-2001-45821 dated March 18, 2004), together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the

merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 19, 2004



Korean Office Action for
Korean Patent Application No. 10-2001-45821
Dated: March 18, 2004

THE EXAMINER'S GROUNDS FOR REJECTION

The present application cannot be patented under Article 29, Paragraph 2, of the Patent Act because it lacks inventive step, as set forth below:

Claims 1 to 22 are characterized by a process for treating a chromate waste liquid containing an organic acid component. However, a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived them from the technical concept regarding a process for treatment of a waste liquid, which is disclosed in the specification and figures of WO 93/16961 (September 2, 1993) and US Patent No. 5,114,592 (May 19, 1992). Further the process of the present invention does not yield a new synergistic effect that cannot be expected from the cited references.



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/916,532
Confirmation Number	9048
Filing Date	July 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hiroaki NASU
Art Unit	1724
Examiner Name	Peter A. Hruskoci
Attorney Docket Number	Q63109

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

PATENT SUBJECT

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of

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,114,592		05-19-1992	SCHUSTER et al.
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		WO	93/16961		09-02-1993	UNICHE-MA AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		Korean Office Action for Korean Patent Application No. 10-2001-0045821 dated March 18, 2004	Yes

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.